for identification of successful bidder for this project has been set as December, 2006.

Closure of power projects for upgradation

1442. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some thermal and hydro power projects in the country particularly in Maharashtra are closed down in order to upgrade their capacity of power generation, which affects power generation heavily; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing necessary assistance to re-start these power projects with more capacity?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Thermal and Hydro Power Projects in the country are shut down when Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) / Life Extension (LE) and Upgrading (U) of the generating units are taken up and that effects the generation. At present no thermal unit is under shut down due to R&M/LE works in Maharashtra. Shut down of Nasik Thermal Power Station Unit 1&2 identified for LE works would be taken up in phased manner to ensure minimum disruption of generation from the power station.

(b) to expedite the implementation of R&M works, the Government is providing benefits under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP) for funding the identified R&M/LE schemes through Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation.

Supply of Naphtha for power projects

1443. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of power projects affected due to poor reserve of naphtha fuel;

(b) Government's reaction thereto;